



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6291.0.55.003 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2016

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Summary

Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

Insights from the Original Data

INSIGHTS FROM THE ORIGINAL DATA

SAMPLE COMPOSITION

The Labour Force Survey sample can be thought of as comprising eight sub-samples (or rotation groups), with each sub-sample remaining in the survey for eight months, and one rotation group "rotating out" each month and being replaced by a new group "rotating in". This sample rotation is important in ensuring that seven-eighths of the sample are common from one month to the next, to ensure that changes in the estimates reflect real changes in the labour market, rather than the sample. In addition, the replacement sample is generally selected from the same geographic areas as the outgoing one, as part of a representative sampling approach.

When considering movements in the original estimates, it is possible to decompose the sample into three components:

- the matched common sample (survey respondents who responded in both April and May);

- the unmatched common sample (respondents in May but who did not respond in April, or vice versa); and
- the incoming rotation group (who replaced respondents who rotated out in April).

The detailed decomposition of each of these movements is included in the data cube 'Insights From the Original Data'.

In considering the three components of the sample, it is important to remember that the matched common sample describes the change observed for the same respondents between April and May, while the other two components reflect differences between the aggregate labour force status of different groups of people.

While the rotation groups are designed to be representative of the population, the outgoing and incoming rotation groups will almost always have somewhat different characteristics, as a result of the groups representing a sample of different households and people. The design of the survey, including the weighting and estimation processes, ensures that these differences are generally relatively minor and seeks to ensure that differences in characteristics of rotation groups do not affect the representativeness of the survey and its estimates. Monthly estimates are always designed to be representative of their respective months, regardless of the relative contribution of the three components of the sample.

INCOMING ROTATION GROUP

In original terms, the incoming rotation group in May 2016 had the same Employment to Population ratio as the group it replaced (60.8% in April and May 2016). The proportion of employed people who were employed full-time was similar to the group it replaced (68.2% in April 2016 and 68.5% in May 2016).

The proportion of men employed full-time was higher in the incoming rotation group when compared to the group it replaced (81.8% in April 2016 and 83.0% in May 2016). The proportion of women employed full-time was lower in the incoming rotation group when compared to the group it replaced (52.9% in April 2016 and 52.0% in May 2016).

The incoming rotation group had a slightly more negative influence on employment in South Australia than the group it replaced. The influence on employment in other States and Territories was similar to the group it replaced.

OUTGOING ROTATION GROUP

In looking ahead to the June 2016 estimates, the outgoing rotation group in May 2016, which will be replaced by a new incoming rotation group in June 2016, had a higher employment to population ratio (63.6% in May 2016) compared to the sample as a whole (61.4% in May 2016). The proportion of employed people who were employed full-time was 69.5% in the outgoing rotation group and 68.1% for the sample as a whole.

The unemployment rate for the outgoing rotation group in May 2016 was 4.6%, which was lower than for the 5.6% whole sample. The participation rate for the outgoing rotation group in May 2016 was 66.7%, higher than the 65.0% for the whole sample.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREND DATA

As the gross flows and rotation group data are presented in original terms they are not directly comparable to the seasonally adjusted and trend data discussed elsewhere in the commentary, and are included to provide additional information for the original data. Since the original data are unadjusted, they have a considerable level of inherent sampling variability, which is specifically adjusted for in the trend series. The trend data provide the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market and are the focus of the commentary in this publication.

Article Archive

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication date.

Articles on labour related topics are also available in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) and Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

Labour Force Survey Archive

Annual Seasonal Re-analysis	March 2016
What's New In The Labour Force	February 2016
Online Collection In The Labour Force Survey	February 2016
What's New in the Labour Force	January 2016
What's New in the Labour Force	October 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	September 2015
Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey	August 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	July 2015
Progress with recommendations from the Independent Technical Review	July 2015
Assessing Volatility in the Labour Force Series	June 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	June 2015
Update on Recommendations 10 and 11 from the Independent Technical Review	June 2015
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Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey	February 2015
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates	February 2015
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What's new in the Labour force	December 2014
Independent Technical Review into the Labour Force Survey and ABS Response	November 2014
What's new in the Labour force	November 2014
Removing the effect of Supplementary Surveys from seasonally adjusted estimates	October 2014
Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues	September 2014
Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues	August 2014

What's new in the Labour force	July 2014
What's new in the Labour force	June 2014
What's new in the Labour force	May 2014
What's new in the Labour force	February 2014
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing	January 2014
What's new in the Labour force	December 2013
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	December 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	November 2013
Understanding full-time/part-time status in the Labour Force Survey	September 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	September 2013
Fact sheet did you know - Underemployment	June 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	June 2013
New Labour Force Sample Design	May 2013
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	May 2013
What's new in Labour Force	May 2013
Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey	April 2013
What's new in Labour Force	April 2013
Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market	February 2013
Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary Surveys	January 2013
What's new in Labour Force	January 2013
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	January 2013
Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series	November 2012
Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey	July 2012
Labour Household Surveys content review and the Labour Force Survey	June 2012
Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia	May 2012
ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates	April 2012
Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey	April 2012
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	March 2012
Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness	February 2012
Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained	January 2012
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	November 2011
Historical Revisions	February 2011
Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey	January 2011

About this Release

A range of quarterly Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE datacubes. The spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The datacubes contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

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Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the **standard error** (SE).

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The RSEs for July 2013 (50% old sample, 50% new sample) and onwards will be subject to revisions in the future, as more information is known about the new sample after it has been introduced.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

State	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
Employed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.9	3.1	3.7	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.9	5.5
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.3	3.0	4.4	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.5	1.1	6.6
Nov-07	6.2	3.2	4.3	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	6.4
Dec-07	6.1	3.4	4.3	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	6.2
Jan-08	6.0	3.6	4.2	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	6.0
Feb-08	5.9	3.8	4.2	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	5.9
Mar-08	5.9	4.1	4.2	2.4	3.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.7
Apr-08	5.8	4.4	4.4	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.6
May-08	5.7	4.7	4.3	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.4
Jun-08	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.3
Jul-08 — Aug-09	6.9	6.1	5.3	3.1	4.0	1.5	1.2	1.6	7.4
Sep-09	6.5	5.8	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	7.0
Oct-09	6.1	5.5	4.7	2.8	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.4	6.5
Nov-09	5.8	5.2	4.5	2.6	3.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	6.2
Dec-09 — Jun-13	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.8
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.7	3.8	5.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.8
Feb-14 onwards	7.9	3.9	5.6	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.9
Unemployed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.7	5.7	4.5	2.6	3.3	1.3	3.2	1.4	4.9
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.0	5.4	4.9	2.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	1.6	5.2
Nov-07	6.1	5.4	5.0	2.9	3.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	5.2
Dec-07	6.2	5.5	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	5.2
Jan-08	6.3	5.6	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	5.2
Feb-08	6.4	5.7	5.1	3.0	4.1	1.7	1.7	1.8	5.1
Mar-08	6.7	5.7	5.2	3.1	4.5	1.8	1.6	1.9	5.1
Apr-08	6.8	5.9	5.5	3.2	4.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	5.2
May-08	6.9	6.0	5.5	3.3	4.8	1.9	1.4	2.0	5.1
Jun-08	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.1
Jul-08 — Aug-09	9.3	8.0	7.4	4.4	6.6	2.5	1.8	2.8	7.3
Sep-09	8.7	7.5	6.8	4.1	6.1	2.4	1.6	2.5	6.8
Oct-09	8.1	7.0	6.4	3.8	5.7	2.2	1.5	2.4	6.4
Nov-09	7.5	6.5	6.0	3.5	5.3	2.1	1.5	2.2	6.0
Dec-09 — Jun-13	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.7
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.3	6.6	8.4	3.7	5.8	1.7	1.3	2.2	7.1
Feb-14 onwards	7.4	6.7	8.6	3.8	5.9	1.8	1.3	2.3	7.3
NILF									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5

Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	6.4	3.7	4.1	3.2	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	6.0
Mar-03 — Oct-07	7.8	3.7	5.2	3.0	3.2	1.5	2.0	1.3	7.3
Nov-07	7.6	3.9	5.1	3.0	3.2	1.5	1.8	1.3	7.0
Dec-07	7.4	4.1	5.1	3.0	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	6.8
Jan-08	7.3	4.4	5.0	3.0	3.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	6.6
Feb-08	7.1	4.7	5.0	3.1	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	6.3
Mar-08	7.1	5.0	4.9	3.1	3.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	6.2
Apr-08	7.0	5.4	5.3	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.2	1.5	6.0
May-08	6.8	5.7	5.2	3.2	4.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun-08	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.6
Jul-08 — Aug-09	8.3	7.6	6.5	4.0	5.2	1.8	1.4	2.0	8.0
Sep-09	7.8	7.2	6.1	3.7	4.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	7.4
Oct-09	7.3	6.7	5.8	3.5	4.6	1.6	1.2	1.8	6.9
Nov-09	6.9	6.4	5.4	3.3	4.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	6.5
Dec-09 — Jun-13	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	6.2
Jul-13 — Jan-14	8.4	4.4	9.8	3.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	2.5	9.0
Feb-14 onwards	8.5	4.5	9.9	3.7	4.6	1.8	0.8	2.5	9.1

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas	Feb-78 — Sep-82	Oct-82 — Aug-87	Sep-87 — Feb-89	Mar-89 — Aug-92	Sep-92 — Aug-97	Sep-97 — Oct-98 Sep-98	Oct-98 — Feb-03
Greater Sydney	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Rest of NSW	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Greater Melbourne	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	3.3
Rest of Victoria	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.2
Greater Brisbane	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.4
Rest of Queensland	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.3	3.6
Greater Adelaide	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.7
Rest of South Australia	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.5
Greater Perth	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.3
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.2
Greater Hobart	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
Rest of Tasmania	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1
	Mar-03 — Feb-08	Mar-08 — Jun-08	Jul-08 — Oct-09	Nov-09 — Jun-13	Jul-13 — Jan-14	Feb-14 onwards	
Greater Sydney	6.5	5.7	7.1	5.7	7.6	7.7	
Rest of NSW	6.4	5.6	7.0	5.6	7.5	7.6	
Greater Melbourne	3.2	5.1	6.4	5.1	4.0	4.0	
Rest of Victoria	3.1	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.9	3.9	
Greater Brisbane	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.9	6.0	
Rest of Queensland	4.4	4.3	5.4	4.3	6.3	6.4	
Greater Adelaide	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.0	
Rest of South Australia	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	
Greater Perth	2.6	3.5	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.0	
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.3	3.7	3.8	
Greater Hobart	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	
Rest of Tasmania	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	
Statistical Area Level 4	Oct-98	Mar-03	Mar-08	Jul-08	Nov-09	Jul-13	Feb-14

Regions	— Feb-03	— Feb-08	— Jun-08	— Oct-09	— Jun-13	— Jan-14	onwards
Central Coast	7.4	8.5	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.2	10.4
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	7.2	8.3	7.0	9.2	7.0	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Blacktown	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - City and Inner South	8.5	9.7	8.3	10.8	8.3	11.7	11.9
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	9.6	11.0	9.3	12.2	9.3	13.1	13.4
Sydney - Inner South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Inner West	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	7.6	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Northern Beaches	7.8	8.9	7.6	9.9	7.6	10.7	10.9
Sydney - Outer South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Parramatta	7.8	8.9	7.6	10.0	7.6	10.8	11.0
Sydney - Ryde	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - South West	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Sutherland	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Capital Region	7.2	8.2	7.0	9.2	7.0	9.9	10.1
Central West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Far West and Orana	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	10.0
Illawarra	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Mid North Coast	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.3	10.6
Murray	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
New England and North West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	9.9
Richmond - Tweed	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Riverina	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	9.0	10.3	8.7	11.4	8.7	12.3	12.6
Melbourne - Inner	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
Melbourne - Inner East	3.6	3.4	6.2	8.2	6.2	4.5	4.6
Melbourne - Inner South	3.7	3.5	6.4	8.4	6.4	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - North East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.6	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - North West	3.7	3.6	6.5	8.6	6.5	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - Outer East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.7	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - South East	3.6	3.4	6.3	8.3	6.3	4.6	4.7
Melbourne - West	3.5	3.4	6.1	8.1	6.1	4.4	4.5
Mornington Peninsula	3.6	3.5	6.4	8.3	6.4	4.6	4.7
Ballarat	4.0	3.8	6.9	9.1	6.9	5.0	5.1
Bendigo	3.8	3.7	6.7	8.8	6.7	4.9	5.0
Geelong	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8

Hume	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Latrobe - Gippsland	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
North West	3.9	3.7	6.8	8.9	6.8	4.9	5.0
Shepparton	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Warrnambool and South West	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Brisbane - East	4.1	5.1	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.2
Brisbane - North	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.3
Brisbane - South	4.2	5.2	5.2	6.8	5.2	8.2	8.4
Brisbane - West	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.2	8.3
Brisbane Inner City	4.2	5.3	5.3	6.9	5.3	8.4	8.6
Ipswich	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.5	5.0	7.9	8.1
Logan - Beaudesert	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.4	8.6
Moreton Bay - North	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.4	4.8	7.7	7.9
Moreton Bay - South	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.3	4.8	7.7	7.9
Cairns	4.9	6.2	6.1	8.0	6.1	9.7	9.9
Darling Downs - Maranoa	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.1	9.3
Fitzroy	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Gold Coast	4.3	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.4	8.6	8.7
Mackay	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Queensland - Outback	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Sunshine Coast	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.5	8.7
Toowoomba	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Townsville	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Wide Bay	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Adelaide - Central and Hills	3.3	3.1	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - North	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - South	3.4	3.1	3.4	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.9
Adelaide - West	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
Barossa - Yorke - Mid North	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.9	4.0
South Australia - Outback	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
South Australia - South East	3.1	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.5	3.5
Mandurah	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Perth - Inner	3.1	3.5	4.9	6.5	4.9	5.8	5.9
Perth - North East	2.9	3.3	4.6	6.1	4.6	5.4	5.5
Perth - North West	2.8	3.2	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.2	5.3
Perth - South East	2.9	3.3	4.7	6.1	4.7	5.5	5.6
Perth - South West	2.7	3.1	4.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.1
Bunbury	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Western Australia - Outback	2.8	3.3	4.6	6.0	4.6	5.4	5.5
Western Australia - Wheat Belt	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.5	4.2	4.9	5.0
Greater Hobart	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Launceston and North East	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.8
Tasmania - South East	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.2
Tasmania - West and North West	1.3	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8

Darwin	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9
Northern Territory - Outback	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 32 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 39 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 26,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.32% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 93%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a Glossary.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.

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